

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG PEPR PLO EG XF
SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

REF: CAIRO 9466

SUMMARY. PRESS MARCH 29 REPORTS ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL AGREED ON "NECESSITY OF HOLDING SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME", TO FORM COMMITTEE TO HEAL ARAB DIFFERENCES, AND ON EXTENSION OF ADF. PROMINENT ON FRONT PAGE IS PICTURE OF SADAT RECEIVING SAUDI FORMIN PRINCE SAUD. EDITORIALS ASSOCIATE EGYPT WITH ARAB UNITY AND TRY TO ISOLATE REJECTIONISTS AS VILLAINS. MATTER OF PLO REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL COVERED IN ATTEMPT EXPLAIN CONTRADICTION BETWEEN KAMAL'S PRESENCE IN CAIRO AND STATEMENTS FROM BEIRUT. SUMMIT STILL VERY MUCH IN DOUBT. END SUMMARY.

1. ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL. PRESS REPORTS SYG MAHMUD RIAD ANNOUNCING COUNCIL AGREED ON "NECESSITY OF HOLDING SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME" TO MOBILIZE ARAB "FORCES AND POTENTIALS" IN FACE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. COUNCIL DECIDED TO FORM ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, WHOSE MEMBERS THUS FAR ARE SUDANESE AND SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SYG RIAD, TO UNDERTAKE CONTACTS TO SETTLE INTER-ARAB DIFFERENCES AND CREATE SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR SUMMIT MEETING. COUNCIL DECIDED TO "CONSOLIDATE" PLO AS ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN LEBANON CONDEMNED, COLLECTIVE ACTION PLEDGED TO INSURE URGENT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AS WAS HUMANITARIAN AID FOR LEBANESE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIANS. RIAD FURTHER DECLARED COUNCIL AGREED EXTEND MANDATE OF ADF FOR SIX MONTHS.

2. PLO PRESENCE. GUMHURIYYA REPORTS SAID KAMAL ATTENDING ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS AS PLO REP ON BASIS "SECRET INSTRUCTIONS" FROM ARAFAT. REPORTEDLY KAMAL TOLD ATTEND SESSIONS REGARDLESS OF CONTRARY STATEMENTS RELEASED IN BEIRUT OR DAMASCUS PURPORTING REPRESENT PLO POLICY. QADDUMI TOO SAID TO HAVE TELEPHONED KAMAL MARCH 27 TO REINFORCE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

3. COMMENTARY. AHAM EDITORIAL ("SOLIDARITY IN FACE OF DANGER") DEPICTS EGYPT AS SUPPORTING ALL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ARAB UNITY IN ORDER TO INFLICT DEFEAT ON ISRAELI AGGRESSION. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, IN REFERENCE TO REJECTIONISTS, THAT "JUDGMENT OF HISTORY TO BE SEVERE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE DIVIDED ARAB RANKS AND SOLD OUT ARAB CAUSE." GUMHURIYYA SAYS COUNCIL MEETING OCCURRING AT CRITICAL TIME WHEN ARAB STRUGGLE "SUFFERING" FROM CRACKS" WHICH HAS ENCOURAGED ISRAELI ARROGANCE AND AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON. ARAB MASSES EXPECT COUNCIL TO ADOPT CLEAR PLAN TO RE-UNIFY ARAB RANKS AND

TO AVOID "RECRIMINATIONS AND MUTUAL ACCUSATIONS".

4. COMMENT. PRESS VAGUE AS TO TIME AND PLACE OF ARAB SUMMIT AND WE WERE UNABLE CONTACT LEAGUE OFFICIALS TODAY. GOE USING COUNCIL MEETING TO ATTEMPT ISOLATE REJECTIONISTS AND BLAME THEM FOR DIVISION OF ARAB RANKS AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS. ALLEGED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PLO'S PUBLIC DISAVOWAL AND PRIVATE BLESSING OF KAMAL'S PRESENCE CONFORMS TO GOE VIEW OF PLO AS ORGANIZATION WHICH ALWAYS TRIES TO HAVE EVERYTHING BOTH WAYS. EILTS

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